

# USAF Public Health Career Field News

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## Chief Blackburn Retires after 26 Years of Service



Dear PH Family; On 14 November, Chief John Blackburn, USAF Public Health Career Field Manager, celebrated his retirement from the Air Force. The encased flag shown above, weighing over 50 lbs, was presented to him. The sides of the triangle are engraved with the patches of the commands and units he served with. The front is engraved with the PH shield, the head of a Chief, and John's face. It was presented with the following comments:

This is a bitter-sweet day for us. It's bitter because we lose Chief Blackburn. It's sweet because we see the Chief receive his reward for over a quarter century of service. This flag is not your reward. We know that rewarding you for all you've done is far beyond our puny powers. We know that the only true and lasting reward for a job well done, is having done it. You did it. We know it. We salute you for it. This flag was designed by the USAFSAM Public Health staff and was purchased with donations from all across the Public Health family; officer, enlisted, every Major Command, active, guard and reserve. I present it to you on their behalf. We'll miss you. We'll think of you often. And perhaps, from time to time, maybe when you look at this flag, you'll think of us too."

Thank you all for your contributions, cards, and calls. You sent Chief Blackburn off on the next chapter of his life in a true it's the people's style.

